(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the completion of project according to the revised schedule to avoid further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Mechanical Coal Handling Project at Paradip Port is likely to be completed by December, 1999 as against the original target of 28th September, 1998.

(c) The reasons for delay are:

(i) Delay in obtaining Railway Approval for Train Unloading system and Rail Layout.

(ii) Litigation in the case.

(iii) Delay due to rebidding of a package because of withdrawal of bid validity by the successful bidder during extended bid validity period.

(d) The revised cost of the project is being worked out by the Port.

(e) The Government has constituted a High Level Steering Committee to monitor the progress of the project. The monitoring of projects at Port and Ministry level has also been strengthened.

[English]

Smooth Supply of Petrol

1841. KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that IOC, BPC and HPC are supplying petrol smoothly to their dealers from its fixed locations but IBP Co. Ltd. are unable to make smooth supplies;;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the persons responsible for the same;

(c) whether Oil Coordination Committee is not taking any action for rectifying the position;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the supplies by IBP Co. Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) IBP Co. is making smooth supplies of petrol to its dealers from the locations where it has its own supply points. At other points, hospitality arrangement with other oil majors exists, which is in line with normal Industry practice. However during June, 1997, supplies of petrol to certain parts of Northern region were affected due to stoppaged of tankers at Kandla, adverse rail/ road conditions due to bad weather, shut down of BPC refinery and FCCU shut down at Vizag, Cochin and Koyali.

[Translation]

Bridges on NH - 12

1842. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the small bridge or construct a new bridge on river Warna near Bareilly on National Highway No. 12;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The reconstruction of new bridge on river Warna is proposed to be included in 9th Five Year Plan subject to the inter-se-priority and overall availability of fund.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Four Lane from Monor to Talesari

1843. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for extension of four lane from Monor to Talesari Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway has been received by the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for four-laning of the road portion in question of National Highway No. 8 in the Maharashtra State. The work of the preparation of detailed project report and other preliminaries of the project is presently in progress.

[Translation]

Educational Agreements

1844. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi University has entered into educational agreements with some countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the countries with whom agreements were made; and

(c) the time by which the above agreements are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

NH Nos. 45 and 7 in Tamil Nadu

1845. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop the two national highways namely NH-45 and NH-7 in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to construct bypass road links around Chennai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) The following proposals are under consideration for the development of NH-45 and NH-7 :

NH-45 : (i) widening to 4 lane including strengthening the existing 2 lane pavement from Km. 67/0 to 122/0 (Pukkathurai-Thindivanam) under B.O.T. (Built, Operate and Transfer) Scheme; (ii) widening to 4 lane including strengthening the existing 2 lane pavement from Km. 122/0 to 324/0 (Thindivanam to Truchy) under World Bank-III.

NH-7 : Strengthening weak 2 lane in Km. 95/0 to 130/0 and 141/0 to 150/0. Land acquisition for Thirumangalam bypass have been proposed under Annual Plan 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The work of Chennai Bypass (length 31.30 Km) is to be done in 2 phases for which alignment has already been approved and the acquisition of land is in progress.

Leaae out of Assets of Ports

1846. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lease out existing assets of ports to the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measure taken to ensure that private sector participation takes place smoothly in an effective manner?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Private Sector Participation guidelines provide for leasing out of existing assets of the ports to the private sector wherever it would attract additional investment and augment existing facilities and wherever it would result in increased traffic throughput, improvement in quality of service and better productivity.

(c) Government has issued clear and transparent guidelines in this regard.

CAG Report on Army Authorities and Ordnance Factories

1847. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report No. 8 of 1995 tabled in both Houses of Parliament on May 9, 1995 has inducted the Army authorities, the respective ordnance factories managements and the Ministry for import of defective equipment, ammunition, non-utilisation of the available material, payment towards fraudulent consignment and delay in demanding claims and replacement etc. thereby causing heavy financial loss;

(b) if so, whether the Government have enquired into the matter and taken any action therein; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) A total of 88 audit paras were received in the Comptroller and Auditor General of India's report No. 8 of 1995 on the functioning of the Army, Ordnance Factories and Ministry of Defence. Of this, action taken notes on 51 audit paras have already been rendered to Monitoring Cell of Ministry of Finance for submission to PAC and action on the remaining 37 audit paras is in progress. Individual Action taken notes contain all details of specific administrative action taken wherever warranted and remedial measures adopted in each case.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Defence have an established system in place for effective and time-bound follow-up and taking remedial action with reference to deficiencies and irregularities brought out in the Audit Reports. Such corrective measures are taken in consultation with Associated Finance and Audit.

[Translation]

Petrol Pumps

1848. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps in Darbhanga district in Bihar and the number of petrol pumps against whom complaints have been filed;